

Advisory Council on Aging and Disability Services

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Creating choices for elders and adults with disabilities in Seattle-King County

MONTHLY MEETING MARCH 10, 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT

CITY OF SEATTLE	KING COUNTY	UNITED WAY
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thelma Coney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lisa Yeager	<input type="checkbox"/> Midge Levy, Secretary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joanne Brekke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Larry Verhei	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lorna Stone
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adam John	<input type="checkbox"/> John Holecek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thelma Pegues, Member-At-Large
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alexandra Tu	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Barnett	<input type="checkbox"/> Timmie Faghin
<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Rasmussen	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Moreland, Chair
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Larry Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phil Pitruzzello
<input type="checkbox"/> Houston Brown, Vice-	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/> Michael Miller
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Robert Gross	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audrey Jernigan
<input type="checkbox"/> Candace Inagi	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amy Astle-Raaen

Excused Absence Tom Rasmussen, Houston Brown, Candace Inagi, John Holecek, Midge Levy, Timmie Faghin, Michael Miller

Guests Art Mussman, Will Parry, Dolores Rossman, Kate Slaminko

ADS Staff Pamela Piering, Rosemary Cunningham, Marcy Kubbs, Linda Wells, Karen Winston, Andrea Yip, Joan Ebenal

United Way Staff Linda Woodall

**King County
Staff**

MINUTES

Don Moreland, Chair convened the Advisory Council (AC) meeting at 12:00 p.m. and invited everyone attending to introduce themselves.

PROGRAM : EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS - AVIAN FLU

Sandy Ciske, Regional Health Officer at Public Health – Seattle & King County provided a PowerPoint presentation on preparing for a potential Avian Flu pandemic including the key points outlined below.

In association with the Area Agency on Aging for Seattle-King County and sponsored by:



City of Seattle



King County

Why Talk about Pandemic Influenza?

Pandemics or worldwide epidemics are inevitable and occur throughout history at regular intervals. They occur simultaneously in many areas and everyone is at risk. With pandemics comes a high potential for sickness and death, disruption of critical services and economic loss, with the impact lasting from weeks to months.

History

Typically in the annual flu season there are 36,000 US deaths. In the 1968-69 pandemic there were 34,000 deaths, while the 1957-58 pandemic resulted in 70,000 deaths. During the pandemic of 1918-19 however, 500,000-650,000 US deaths occurred. This influenza pandemic spread around the globe in 4-6 months effecting and killing younger, healthy people. Forty to 50 million people died worldwide, a death rate 25 times higher than previous epidemics.

Avian Influenza A (H5N1) in Asia

While the current outbreak of Avian Influenza has occurred across several continents affecting wild birds and poultry since 2003, it is most prevalent in Asia where it first appeared. Alaska, it should be noted, is on the flyway for wild birds from Asia. While there has been no sustained person-to-person transmission of the disease the outbreak is not controlled. Furthermore, there is no pre-existing immunity in humans. In the seven predominantly Asian countries in which this has appeared, the death rate has been over 50 percent.

Potential Local Impact

In King County, the following estimates have been calculated:

- 245,000-612,000 clinically ill
- 180,000 - 470,000 outpatient medical visits
- 24,400 – 57,200 people hospitalized
- Up to 11,500 dead

It is anticipated that there would be extreme shortages in staffing, beds, facility space, and supplies. Hospital morgues, Medical Examiner and mortuary services would be overwhelmed. Significant disruption to transportation, public works, commerce, utilities, energy, communications and emergency response would also be expected. Potential impacts on businesses and government include:

- High absenteeism with 25% - 35% of workforce affected
- Challenges getting to and from the worksite
- Psychological impacts on workforce that will be extreme
- Economic losses that will be extreme and long term

Antiviral Drugs and Vaccine

While antiviral agents can be effective in preventing illness and severe complications from the usual seasonal influenza, it may not be effective against a pandemic virus. Also, supply of antiviral drugs is limited.

A vaccine for a pandemic influenza will take 6–8 months to produce. Two doses of the vaccine would be needed to be effective.

What Can Individuals Do?

Sandy Ciske indicated that individuals should practice basic personal hygiene including:

- Covering your cough or coughing into your elbow rather than hand
- Washing hands often or using alcohol hand gel
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Staying home when sick

Agency Preparedness

- Identify a Planning Team
- Prioritize Critical Functions
- Identify positions needed to carry out those functions
- Identify functions that could be suspended for up to 2 months
- Build depth through cross-training
- Plan for alternate work schedules
- Explore large scale telecommuting capabilities

Human Resource Management Preparedness

Sandy recommends maintaining a healthy work environment by:

- Promoting proper respiratory and hand hygiene
- Updating sick leave and FMLA policies
- Encourage / require ill employees to stay home
- Encourage development of individual and family disaster plans
- Make Employee Assistance available
- Educate workforce about the threat of pandemic
- Schedule crisis communication training

BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes

Action Taken: It was moved/seconded and passed that the February 10, 2006 minutes be approved once corrected to document Councilmember Tom Rasmussen's presence.

COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

Planning and Allocation Committee

Joanne Brekke reported that the committee plans to visit programs and learn more about services offered before the next allocation process. She reported there will be no supplemental allocation this year.

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee will meet the week of March 27th.

Outreach and Advocacy Committee

There were several items discussed in the committee report.

1) *The Legislative Forum* will take place on Wednesday, August 23, 2006 at the Seattle Center. The focus will be on the federal budget and its impact on the state's older adults and adults with disabilities. The approach will be non-partisan.

2) *Medicare Part D*—Representative Adam Smith has co-sponsored legislation that would extend implementation by 6 months.

3) Senior Lobby Day

Don Moreland thanked the Advisory Council members who attended for all their good lobbying efforts. He commended Linda Wells for the packet and other materials she prepared for the event. The review of the Eldercare Alliance issues and role play practice provided at the February meeting helped to prepare members for Senior Lobby Day.

Pamela Piering also thanked the Advisory Council for its efforts, and indicated that four of the six Eldercare Alliance issues were funded. They include:

- Adult Day Health rates will receive a 14% rate increase
- Personal Needs Allowance increase approved
- Effective July 1st, the 3.75% cut in Case Management Services will be restored. In addition a 1% increase amortized forward (equaling 2.01%) will be received. A vendor rate increase of 1% will also be provided
- Ombudsman Coverage for Adult Family Homes was only funded for one year (\$400,000)

Also, Kinship Care received an additional \$500,000 of which King County will receive about 25 percent. Increased funding for agency Homecare workers will provide parity with the compensation for Individual Providers (IP). The requested increase in funding for Respite and Senior I& A were not funded, but will be taken up again next year.

It was suggested that a Democracy in Action Alert be developed so individuals can send a thank you to legislators for their support of Eldercare Alliance issues.

Linda Woodall reported that \$2.5 million was provided for the 2-1-1 system. It was launched on February 22nd. By fall, 211 in King County will expand to 24 hour coverage.

State Council on Aging

Joanne Brekke reported that Mark Rupp from the Governor's office spoke to the council. It is possible the State Council will meet with the Governor in March. A State Older American's Act (OAA) 4-Year Plan needs to be developed. Since it is not connected to the AAA's Area Plans there may need to be a series of hearings around the state to gather input on the OAA Plan.

Regarding "Cash and Counseling", or the New Freedom Think Tank, an exception to Medicare rules for home care has been obtained to allow the project to move forward. It will allow clients enrolled in this voluntary program more control over funds for services. Under the proposal, the recipient will give up 5% of funds for services and get more control over their personal care money. Seattle King County is the only location proposed by ADSA for this three-year pilot project.

Pam Piering reported that the City's Law Department was consulted about the project and expressed concern about the City's high liability. As a result a letter has been sent to the state advising them that ADS will not be participating in the "Cash and Counseling" project.

NEW BUSINESS

2006 Meeting Calendar

Action Taken: It was moved/seconded and passed that the Advisory Council change its regular November meeting from November 10th (Veterans Day) to Friday, November 3rd.

Senior Lobby Day

John Barnett indicated that while he was pleased with the success of the Senior Lobby Day, he believes there is room for improvement. His concerns included timely scheduling of appointments and carpooling.

Retreat Small Group Discussions

John Barnett stated that the small group discussions at the 2006 Advisory Council Retreat generated a long list of suggested activities and program improvements. He would like to see these prioritized.

Action Taken: It was moved / seconded and passed that the Executive Committee study the retreat recommendations and propose those that can be incorporated into an Advisory Council work plan.

Correspondence

Don Moreland reported that he received a response from Jackie MacLean, King County Sponsor, to the letter requesting they speed up the process for appointing members to the Advisory Council. They reportedly will soon hire the individual who will be responsible for initiating the process.

Director's Report

Pamela Piering reported on a number of items to the Advisory Council.

- 1) The Sponsor's meeting on March 16th will be held at Elderhealth Northwest.
- 2) Pam commended Don Moreland for his discussions with federal officials and expressed appreciation for his leadership.
- 3) OAA Reauthorization – the federal budget includes cuts to the OAA including:
 - Title III, D – Health Enhancement will be cut and replaced by “Choices for Independence”. While this suggests some good things, both are needed. This action would cut funds to every AAA in the country and AAAs would have to apply for substitute funds. Health promotion needs to be expanded in all communities.
 - Title V – Senior Employment for those 55 to 65 years of age will require an RFP every 3 years which is a significant change.
- 4) Pam thanked Alexandra Tu and Adam John for their roles opening and closing a recent meeting co-convened with United Indians of All Tribes (UIAT). The meeting regarding Native elders included representatives from Chief Seattle Club, UIAT, Senior Services, University of Washington, and the Seattle Indian Health Board.
- 5) The n4a legislative report which Pam receives every Friday will be forwarded to the Advisory Council more frequently so members can stay up to date on activities in Washington, D.C.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

**Note: Next
Meeting on
Third Friday**

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Friday, April 21, 2006

12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

13th Floor Conference Room

Alaska Building

618 Second Ave, Seattle, WA 98104

www.adsadvisorycouncil.org

Don Moreland, Chair _____